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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 SY-05 DCT-02 /109 W  
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P 082104Z AUG 80  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6324  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (☒) In Full

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ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: GDS, 8/8/86 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P  
TAGS: SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY -- JULY 26 - AUGUST 8, 1980

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6019

1. (U) BEGIN SUMMARY. THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S REPORT ON ARGENTINA IS BEING DISTRIBUTED IN ARGENTINA BY HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE, THUS FAR. A SYNAGOGUE WAS BOMBED BUT NOBODY WAS HURT AUGUST 7. THE SUPREME COURT TELLS COURTS THEY MUST INVESTIGATE WHEN PRESENTED WITH A HABEAS CORPUS PETITION. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ARE PRESSING THEIR

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CASE PUBLICLY IN BEHALF OF THE DISAPPEARED AND THE DETAINED. TERRORIST DEATHS ANNOUNCED. END SUMMARY.

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2. (U) INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT BEING DISTRIBUTED: ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HAVE BEGUN LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE IAHRC REPORT ON ARGENTINA. BY AUGUST 15 THEY PLAN TO HAVE DISTRIBUTED 4,500 COPIES OF THE REPORT. FIVE HUNDRED OF THESE WERE BROUGHT THROUGH ARGENTINE CUSTOMS WITHOUT ANY INTERFERENCE BY THE AUTHORITIES. THE REMAINDER ARE OFFSET COPIES PRODUCED IN ARGENTINA. THERE HAS BEEN NO REACTION THUS FAR FROM THE GOVERNMENT. THE OFFSET COPIES ARE BEING SOLD FOR THE PESO EQUIVALENT OF DOLS ONE AND TWENTY CENTS (1.20).

3. [REDACTED] MOST OF THE DEMAND, OUR SOURCES TELL US, HAS BEEN FROM INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS AMONG THE DISAPPEARED AND DETAINED. THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS LOOK FORWARD TO A WIDER DISTRIBUTION IN THE FUTURE, NOWEVER.

4. (U) CONTINUED PUBLICITY ABOUT THE DISAPPEARED AND DETAINED: HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS HAVE MAINTAINED AND INTENSIFIED THEIR EFFORTS TO DRAW THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION TO ISSUES OF THE DISAPPEARED AND THE DETAINED. PAID ADVERTISEMENTS AND LETTERS TO AUTHORITIES, WHICH ARE ALSO GIVEN TO THE PRESS -- AND REPORTED, ARE PART OF THIS CAMPAIGN. ACTIVISTS ARE PLANNING TO PRESENT A PETITION IN BEHALF OF THE DISAPPEARED AND THE DETAINED TO THE PRESIDENT AUGUST 14 FOLLOWING A RALLY IN THE PLAZA DE MAYO. (EARLIER THIS YEAR WHEN A GROUP OF MOTHERS TRIED TO PRESENT SUCH A PETITION, THEY AND THEIR SUPPORTERS [REDACTED]  
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WERE ARRESTED IN THE PLAZA.)

5. (U) TERRORIST DEATHS ANNOUNCED: THE GOA ANNOUNCED THE DEATH OF TWO TERRORISTS. THE GOVERNMENT REPORT IS THAT THE TWO -- LILIANA GOLDEMBERG AND EDUARDO GONZALO ESCABOSA -- COMMITTED SUICIDE BY TAKING POISON -- IN FRONT OF A GROUP OF TOURISTS -- WHEN THEY SAW THEY WOULD BE CAPTURED IN AN ATTEMPT TO ENTER ARGENTINA AT A FRONTIER POST. THE GOVERNMENT STATED THAT THE TWO CARRIED INSTRUCTIONS FOR TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN ARGENTINA AND A CODE BOOK FOR RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS FROM RADIO NOTICIAS DEL CONTINENTE IN COSTA RICA (THE POWERFUL SHORTWAVE STATION IS ALLEGEDLY OWNED

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AND OPERATED BY THE MONTONEROS). THE STATEMENT ALSO  
ASSERTED THAT GOLDBERG WAS "PRESENTLY" IN CHARGE OF  
A TERRORIST GROUP IN BUENOS AIRES "IN THE AREA OF  
FAMILIES OF THE DISAPPEARED AND THE DETAINED."

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6. [REDACTED] COMMENT: GOLDBERG WAS A WELL KNOWN  
MONTONERO ACTIVIST. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON  
GONZALO. THE ALLEGATION THAT GOLDBERG WAS TIED IN  
SOME WAY TO LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS IS THE SECOND  
TIME RECENTLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A CONNECTION  
BETWEEN TERRORISTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS --  
NOEMI ESTHER GIANETTI, WHO DISAPPEARED IN LIMA AND  
TURNED UP DEAD IN MADRID, WAS SAID BY THE GOVERNMENT O  
BE AN ACTIVIST AMONG THE PLAZA DE MAYO MOTHERS  
(SOMETHING THAT OUR SOURCES HERE DENY). THOUGH  
EXPRESSING SOME CONCERN AT THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS  
OF THESE ALLEGATIONS, OUR SOURCES HERE TELL US THAT  
THEY FEEL MORE SECURE AND HAVE GREATER ROOM TO ACT

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THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS -- THE PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE IAHRC REPORT AND THE INCREASING PUBLICITY THEY GET FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES ATTEST TO THIS, THEY SAY.

7. (U) COURT ORDERS HABEAS CORPUS INVESTIGATION: THE SUPREME COURT ORDERED A LOWER COURT TO ACCEPT AND INVESTIGATE A HABEAS CORPUS PETITION. EVER SINCE THE COURT'S 1978 DECISION IN THE PEREZ CASE, LOWER COURTS HAVE ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY REJECTED HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS IN BEHALF OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS. IN THE LATEST CASE -- THE MACHADO DECISION -- THE SUPREME COURT STATED THAT WHEN THERE ARE WITNESSES TO A DISAPPEARANCE THE COURTS MUST INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT INSTEAD OF SIMPLY ACCEPTING THE AUTHORITIES' ALLEGATION THAT THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE INCIDENT AND ARE NOT HOLDING THE INDIVIDUAL IN WHOSE BEHALF THE HABEAS CORPUS PETITION WAS MADE.

8. [REDACTED] COMMENT: OUR HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCES ARE VERY PLEASED BY THIS DECISION AND FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT. HOWEVER, THEY POINT OUT THAT THE IMPORTANCE IS ONLY A THEORETICAL ONE UNTIL THE QUALITY AND THE VIGOR OF THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION THAT FOLLOWS IS ESTABLISHED. IN ONE CASE IN THE PAST THE SUPREME COURT REMANDED A SIMILAR CASE TO THE LOWER COURTS BUT THE INVESTIGATION OF THE DISAPPEARANCE CAME TO NOTHING, THEY SAY.

9. (U) COURT ORDERS EMPLOYEE REHIRED: ABUENOS AIRES COURT ORDERED THE CITY TO REHIRE A WOMAN WHO WAS FIRED IN 1976 ON GROUNDS THAT SHE WAS A SECURITY RISK. OVER THE PAST YEAR THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL OTHER INSTANCES WHEN THE CITY HAS BEEN ORDERED BY THE COURTS TO  
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BACK TRACK ON A FIRING FOR REASONS OF SECURITY. BUT THIS CASE IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTING BECAUSE OF THE STRONG, EVEN SCATHING, LANGUAGE THE COURT USED IN CONDEMNING THE ACTION BY THE CITY AND ASSERTING THE

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AUTHORITY OF THE COURTS TO INTERVENE IN SUCH MATTERS.

10. (U) SYNAGOGUE ATTACKED: A BUILDING IN BUENOS AIRES OCCUPIED BY A JEWISH SCHOOL AND SYNAGOGUE WAS BOMBED IN THE VERY EARLY HOURS AUGUST 7. THE MODERATE SIZE BOMB DID SOME MATERIAL DAMAGE BUT NOBODY WAS HURT AS THE FACILITIES WERE NOT OCCUPIED AT THAT TIME. SUBSEQUENTLY, ON AUGUST 8 TWO JEWISH SCHOOLS IN BUENOS AIRES HAD TO BE EVACUATED AFTER THEY RECEIVED BOMB THREATS -- A SEARCH OF THE SCHOOLS SHOWED THAT THE THREATS WERE FALSE.

11. [REDACTED] THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LEWISH COMMUNITY MET PRIVATELY AUGUST 8 TO DISCUSS THE ATTACKS. WHILE CONCERNED, THE LEADERSHIP IS RESPONDING IN A MEASURED WAY TO THE ATTACK. IT HAS NOT CONCLUDED THAT IT PRESAGES AN UPSURGE IN VIOLENT ANTI-SEMITISM HERE, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN TWO OTHER SUCH ATTACKS ON SYSAGOGUES IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS.  
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